
Letter to Alexander Trachtenberg in New York from Nicholas Dozenberg in Chicago, June 19, 1924.[†]

Copy in the CPUSA/Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 356, ll. 27-28.

June 19, 1924

Alexander Trachtenberg
309 Troy Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Comrade Trachtenberg

I have yours of June 17th [1924] in reference to the Radical Book Store addresses, etc. I will send you all the addresses which we have on file within a day or two. I just gave orders to a certain department to have these addresses run off on a tape, then you can have them either copied from that tape or the addresses pasted on the envelopes.

My opinion about having certain works of Marx, Lenin, and others translated in English is, that it should be done. I think it would prove a financial success in due time. Due consideration should be given our English comrades that if we are to publish any of these standard works in English, that arrangement be made for the English Party to agree to take a certain number of these books for sale in England.

Do not overlook the fact that Charles H. Kerr and Co. now in business for not less than 20 years seems to have a kind of monopoly on radical books.[‡] Most of the standard works on socialism have already been published by them and I would not be in favor of publishing our own edition; I doubt whether we would find a good enough market to financially justify such edition of ours. Many of those books not yet published in English written by popular Russian writ-

ers like Lenin, Zinoviev, Radek, and others would, I think, with a proper campaign and publicity that we could create, produce quite a demand for such books throughout the country of the United States and Canada. It would make the venture pay for itself. It needs quite a bit of working capital, however, and is one of the most essential things that the Party Literature Department is lacking at this time.

I have not been able to place orders for the most popular publications with our English comrades in England, simply because there were no funds available. When the Literature Department has no funds of any kind to do business with [it] is subject to whatever may be consented to by the Executive Committee. This is not satisfactory in my opinion, but of course nothing could have been done, because I know that the funds of the Party organization were not available during this time while I am connected with the Literature Department. I am mentioning this to you simply to bring the situation to your attention, so that you should bear that in mind when contemplating further action on the subject matter as per your letter.

We would appreciate if you would give me in full what you are contemplating and what results you are obtaining in that connection, as well as more elaborate information what your plans are.

Fraternally yours,

[Nicholas Dozenberg]
LITERATURE DIRECTOR

D:SG.

[†]— Alexander Trachtenberg was preparing to launch International Publishers, a Marxist publishing house. Nicholas Dozenberg was the head of the Literature Department of the Workers Party of America.

[‡]— Charles H. Kerr & Co. was actually established in 1885, making it over 40 years old at the time of this writing. Kerr began to issue explicitly Marxist literature in 1899.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.
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